

SPORTS

Take-it-Deep survives defensive battle, 6-0

TID capitalized on three early PCD mistakes to score the game’s only touchdown.

CPL. THOMAS PERRY  
STAFF WRITER

When Fall’s chill sweeps down from the north and the days again grow short, all true sports fans know that football season is just around the corner. It is time to get out your pigskin, dust off your jersey, hone up on your remote control techniques and heat up some Buffalo wings, because frozen tundras and gridiron battles are ready to kickoff.

Unfortunately, the players on Take-it-Deep and PCD didn’t get the message because they weren’t “ready for some football.”

Take-it-Deep defeated PCD 6-0 during intramural football action at the Depot Football Field Sept. 25, capitalizing on

a few early PCD mistakes and then hanging on for dear life.

Fans of wide-open, exciting football need not apply. This contest was an old-fashioned defensive battle with little offense and few scores.

If you include the fact that players cannot tackle each other in flag football, there was one good reason to watch this game.

The game began excitingly enough, as Take-it-Deep’s Quarterback Robert Crochet took advantage of two PCD penalties and marched his team into the end zone.

Take-it-Deep failed to convert the extra point, and just like that the scoring was over.

“We didn’t convert the extra point, but six points was all we needed to put PCD away,” said Christopher Griffith, Take-it-Deep’s coach, who slyly masked his confidence in his defense.

During the next few minutes of the game, both teams struggled to find an offensive rhythm.

Each team would make a few

plays, but then the drive would stall once before they could get rolling. A dropped ball here, a key penalty there - neither team’s offense could sustain a drive.

Take-it-Deep’s defense did not know it at the time, but those mistakes would mean a loss. There was no room for error because their offense was running on empty.

Take-it-Deep’s defense was up to the challenge and yielded not a single point over the first three quarters of the game, but late in the game, PCD was threatening. Take-it-Deep was sitting on their own 25-yard line and facing fourth down and long. Was it possible that a poor punt could waste all of Take-it-Deep’s hard work on defense?

It was time to see if Take-it-Deep’s special teams unit could rise to the occasion. Kicker Robert Carlisle answered the question with one swift kick.

“Carlisle sparked the team with an explosive 60-yard punt, forcing PCD to start

from their own five yard line,” said Griffith. “The kick gave our team the boost of confidence it needed.”

According to Griffith, whose team improved to 2-1 with the victory, confidence is not the only thing his team needs in order to have continued success.

“Nothing has been strong at this point,” said Griffith, who attributed his team’s victory to a new understanding of their defensive scheme. “After shutting out PCD, I can only hope our defense has arrived as the bread and butter of the teams success. We are rough around the edges, but over the course of the season, I am positive these guys will become a contender in the league.”

The Intramural Flag Football Season continues throughout the fall and Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina encourages football fans to be part of the action all season long. The games are played Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6, 7 and 8 p.m.



Cpl. Alisha Fitzgerald

**Take-it-Deep quarterback Robert Crochet scrambles for a first down during his team’s 6-0 victory over PCD Sept. 25. Take-it-Deep scored the only touchdown in the opening minutes of the contest.**

Steelers sneak by Raiders, 14-13, continue to roll

CPL. THOMAS PERRY  
STAFF WRITER

The Tri-Command 8-10-year-old Steelers overcame a seven point second-half deficit to defeat the Burton Raiders 14-13 at the Depot Football Field Saturday.

With just 15 seconds remaining in the game, the Steelers huddled on the sideline dripping with sweat and searching for a hero. Glory lay just 30 yards away disguised as pay dirt, but the ticking clock and 11 Raiders wrapped in silver and black were stacking the odds against the Steelers’ chances of making a six-point deposit.

Steelers’ Head Coach Henry Pennington gathered his Saturday morning warriors together hoping for gridiron heroics. His boys did not disappoint.

“I went into the huddle and told the boys it was score or lose the game,” said Pennington. “I then asked Dwian Norman if he wanted the ball on this final play, and he looked at me and said, ‘Yes coach, I can score.’”

On the snap, Norman received a pitch and scampered 30 yards into the end zone making the score 13-12 Raiders. Trailing by just a single point, Pennington had a decision to make. Kick an extra point and go into overtime or go for two and win the game.

“I had to make the decision to go for two and the win,” said Pennington. “I called a quarterback keeper, and Eric Boyles sliced into the corner of the end zone, giving us a 14-13 win. I was really impressed on how the boys never gave up; they kept pushing right until the end.”

The Steelers, who, with the win, are now 3-1, have impressed their coach since the first practice of the season with both their football knowledge and ability to pick up and implement his schemes.

“The boys have really picked up my system both offensively and defensively,” said Pennington. “The vast improvement since the beginning of the season has really impressed me. They always come to practice motivated and willing to put out the effort to improve.”

Since their first-week loss to the Hilton Head Gators 0-6, the Steelers have improved in each of their past three games, and could be on their way to a championship. But as much as Pennington wants his boys to win, he knows it is more important that

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**- Henry Pennington, Steelers’ Head Coach**

they learn.

“At this level, I am more focused on letting the kids have fun playing and learning the fundamentals,” said Pennington. “Don’t get me wrong, winning is nice and it would be good for the boys to win a championship, but at this age group that’s not the most important aspect.”

The Steelers success, as well as their enjoyment, can be traced back to their dedication



Special to The Boot

**The Tri-Command 8-10-year-old Steelers, seen here in an earlier match-up, improved to 3-1 on the season by overcoming a seven point second-half deficit against the Burton Raiders to earn a 14-13 victory Saturday.**

football this season, but Pennington believes four players have shined above the rest.

“Everyone has played extremely well, but if I had to narrow the choice, I would have to give the nod to Anthony Taylor and Dwian Norman,” said Pennington. “They have run the ball hard and have accounted for most

of our offensive effort. On defense, I would have to say that Tyler Johnson and Michael Pennington have really stepped forward and led the defensive effort.”

The Steelers’ next game is against the Panthers, who won last year’s championship, Saturday on Lady’s Island at 9:30 a.m.